

and a longitudinal slit defined therethrough, the septum piston being moveable distally along the longitudinal axis of said housing from a proximal position adjacent said proximal portion to a distal position, a longitudinal space being defined within said piston at least when said piston is in said distal position, said rigid member being mounted within said bore so that said distal movement of said piston along said longitudinal axis induces a transverse pressing force between said at least one rigid member and said elastomeric piston, said force being transmitted in a direction transverse to said longitudinal axis to deflect said longitudinal elastomeric wall and displace open said longitudinal slit without said rigid member contacting said slit to thereby open fluid communication between said space within said piston and said male luer connector, said space being elastically enlarged by said rigid member as said piston is moved distally, said fluid entering said space upon said distal movement;

e. said piston being further movable proximally from said distal position toward said proximal position, said longitudinal elastomeric wall rebounding to close said slit to thereby close fluid communication between said space and said male luer connector and to elastically diminish said space to express fluid from within said space upon said movement proximally such that said fluid expressed from within said space is expressed, relative said piston, in a direction opposite the movement of said piston.

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²⁵ (Amended) The medical valve of claim ²⁴ wherein said space extends along said longitudinal axis within said piston when said piston is in said distal position.

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²⁶ (Amended) The medical valve of claim ²⁴ wherein a plurality of rigid members are provided, said rigid members being positioned within said bore such that said slit is pushed into an open configuration by a plurality of different traverse forces transmitted through said different regions of said elastomeric piston as said piston is moved from said proximal position toward said distal position.

³⁴ ²⁴ ²⁷ The medical valve of claim ²⁴ wherein said space is bounded by an interior surface of said piston when said piston is in said distal position.

B2
²⁷28. (Amended) The medical valve of claim ²⁶26, wherein at least a proximal portion of said piston comprises an elastomeric cylinder having a longitudinal axis co-axial to said longitudinal axis of said bore, said elastomeric cylinder being slidable along said proximal portion of said housing.

Kindly add the following new claims:

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²⁸29. (New) The medical valve of claim ²⁷28, wherein said elastomeric wall includes substantially opposing portions, said rigid members being mounted such that said pressing forces are applied to said opposing portions so that said opposing portions move transversely in opposite directions to thereby spread said slit into an open position.

²⁹30. (New) The medical valve of claim ²⁸29, wherein said rigid members are mounted within said valve so that said pressing forces widen said elastomeric face along an axis transverse to said longitudinal axis, to displace said slit into an open configuration when said elastomeric piston is moved toward said distal position.

³⁰31. (New) The medical valve of claim ²⁷28, wherein said elastomeric face defines a central portion and said slit defines a long transverse axis along said central portion of said elastomeric face, said rigid members being mounted within said housing such that said elastomeric face is widened along an axis transverse to said long transverse axis of said slit when said male luer displaces said elastomeric piston into said distal position, so that said slit is spread open by said transverse displacement of said face so that fluid can flow through said slit without contact between said rigid members and said slit.

³¹32. (New) The medical valve of claim ²⁷28, wherein said rigid members are mounted radially adjacent said elastomeric cylinder.